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ABSTRACT

To a young child just learning to read, the world of books and stories is like a big playground waiting to be explored. Children between the ages of four and six usually start to recognize some words on a page. There are many things parents can do to help their children grow as readers. Parents can support their child's reading by being patient, praising children's efforts, and suggesting that parents and children read new books together. Parents can help by choosing good quality books that are also fun to read. Public libraries are places for children and parents to explore together. Even in today's fast-paced world, there is an important place for books in a young child's life. Parents and caregiver can begin to build a library of books for the whole family to enjoy. By reading aloud together and encouraging early attempts to read and write, parents can help build young children's confidence. (RS)

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Explore the Playground of Books: Tips for Parents of Beginning Readers = Explore el mundo de los libros: Ideas para los padres de ninos que apenas comienzan a leer.

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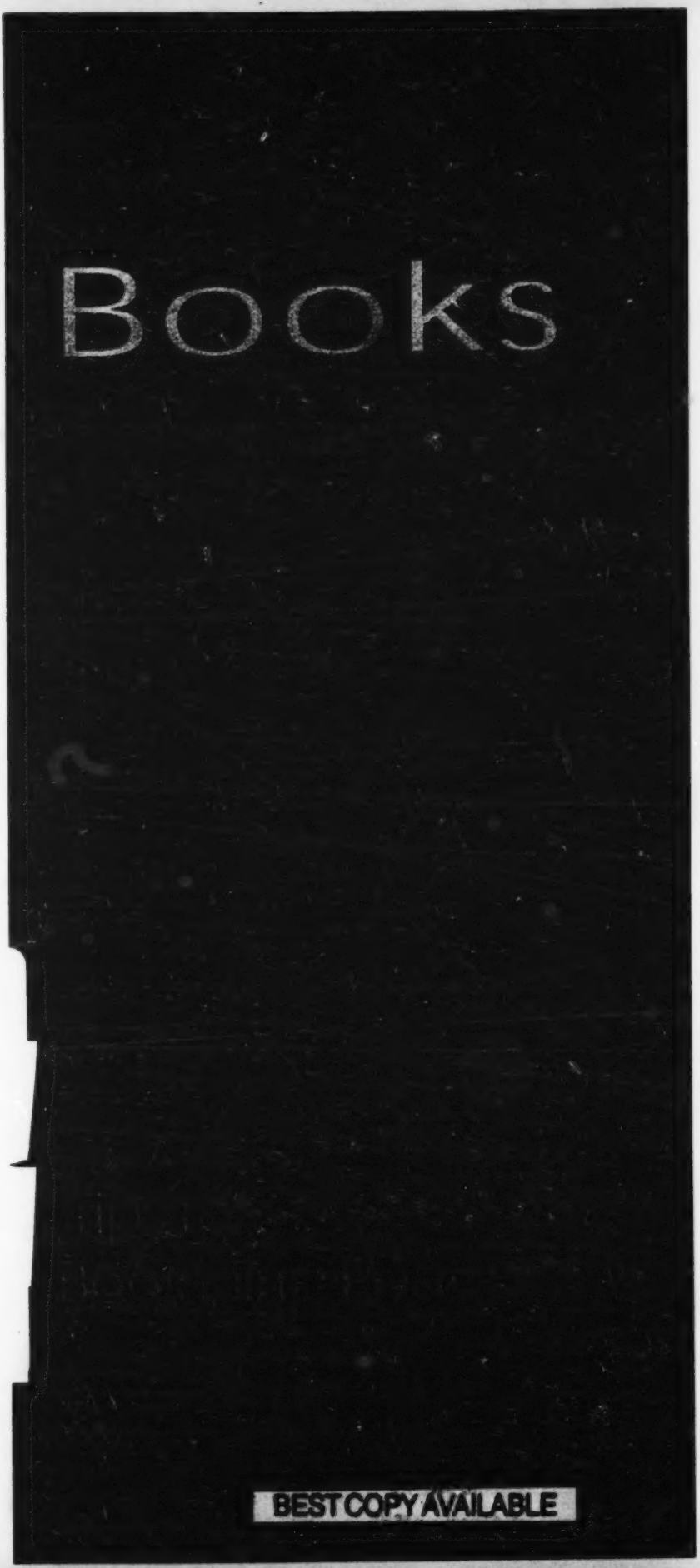

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Sliding into reading

Children between the ages of four and six usually start to recognize some words on a page. Your child has grown from the toddler who could recognize the logo on a favorite cereal box to a child who can hold a book and begin to understand the mystery of the written word.

There are many things that parents can do to help their children grow as readers. Here are some tips to build your child's reading confidence as you read together:

- Follow the words with your finger from left to right as you read them.
- Read books your child chooses, even if you have read them many times before!
- Point out key words in the story and explain words that children may not know.
- Ask a lot of questions like, "What's happening now?" "What do you think will happen next?" "Where did he go?" "What is she doing?"
- Answer your child's questions, even if they interrupt the story.
- Encourage your child to look at the pictures for clues to the story.
- Put aside a book if your child isn't interested, and pick another one.
- Allow time after reading to talk about the book, and invite your child to re-read parts of the story with you.

The merry-go-round of books

Most children have one or two favorite stories that they want to hear again and again. They will hear them so many times that they will know them by heart and may want to "read" them to you. This is an important step in a child's reading. As a parent, you can support your child's learning by being patient, praising your child's efforts, and suggesting that you read new books together, too. Here are some more tips for encouraging a child's first attempts at reading:

• Reading is hard! Encourage your child to try, even if it's not right every time.

• Practice letter sounds together. Practice writing and reading letters and words.

• When you get to a word your child doesn't know, look together for clues in the pictures that might provide the answer.

• If your child has trouble reading a word, skip over it, read the rest of the sentence, and try to determine what word might make sense.

• Choose books that rhyme, that repeat familiar phrases, or that have a predictable story.

• Applaud your child's efforts! Don't dwell on mistakes, and give plenty of encouragement. Every new word your child learns is a step toward reading and deserves your attention and praise.

A jungle gym for the imagination

Books can be a place where children learn new things about the world around them, and you can help by choosing good quality books that also are fun to read. Children like all kinds of books. They like books about things they do and places they go every day, and they also like books about new places and things.

For young children just learning to read, you can help choose simple books children can read on their own and some harder books you can read together. Here are some suggestions for selecting good books for your preschooler:

• Ask friends, relatives, neighbors, and teachers to share titles of favorite books.

• Look for lists of award-winning or recommended books for children.

• Check the book review sections of newspapers and magazines for new children's books.

• Choose books on subjects you know your child is interested in.

• Choose books that have a strong story and an ending that is easy for a child to guess.

• Introduce books with poems, songs, and rhythm.

• Experiment with different kinds of books and offer variety (but keep old favorites around as well).

The best playground in town

Where is the best place to find books for children of all ages, absolutely free? Your public library! Libraries are places for children and parents to explore together. The library has many books, resources, and activities just for children.

Yet, parents and caregivers may take one look at the thousands of children's books and say, "Where do I begin?" Your librarian can help you make good book choices for your young child, so don't be afraid to ask. It's easy to make your library a favorite place for you and your child to explore. Here are some ideas:

• Make library visits a regular activity that your child can look forward to.

• Get a library card for yourself and your child (even a three- or four-year-old). Children love the feeling of having their own card.

• Attend library story times (including evening story hours for working parents).

• Guide your child in choosing books, but remember that children should be allowed to choose books, too.

• Use the card catalog or computer with your child to look up book titles, authors, and favorite topics.

• Set a good example by taking good care of books and returning them on time.

Books in your own backyard

Even in today's fast-paced world of video games, television, and computers, there is an important place for books in a young child's life. As a parent or caregiver, you can begin to build a library of books for your whole family to enjoy. All children enjoy having books that are their very own.

Trips to bookstores (including second-hand bookstores, garage sales, and thrift shops) can be a positive reinforcement for your young reader. In addition to your library visits, occasional bookstore trips will excite children to pick out books to add to their collection. Giving a book as a birthday gift, a reward, or for other special occasions shows children that you care personally about them, their interests, and their future.

Read, write, and explore!

The world of books and reading is waiting for you and your child to explore together. With your help, your child can take the first steps toward reading independently. By reading aloud together and encouraging early attempts to read and write, parents can help build young children's confidence. So read, write, and explore the playground of books together—the fun is just beginning!

Other brochures in this series include:

*Get Ready to Read! Tips for Parents of Young Children

*Explore the Playground of Books: Tips for Parents of Beginning Readers

Summer Reading Adventure! Tips for Parents of Young Readers

*Also available in Spanish

This brochure may be purchased from the International Reading Association in quantities of 100, prepaid only. (Please contact the Association for pricing information.) Single copies are free upon request by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Requests from outside the U.S. should include an envelope, but postage is not required.

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Brochure text written by Kathleen A. Travaline.

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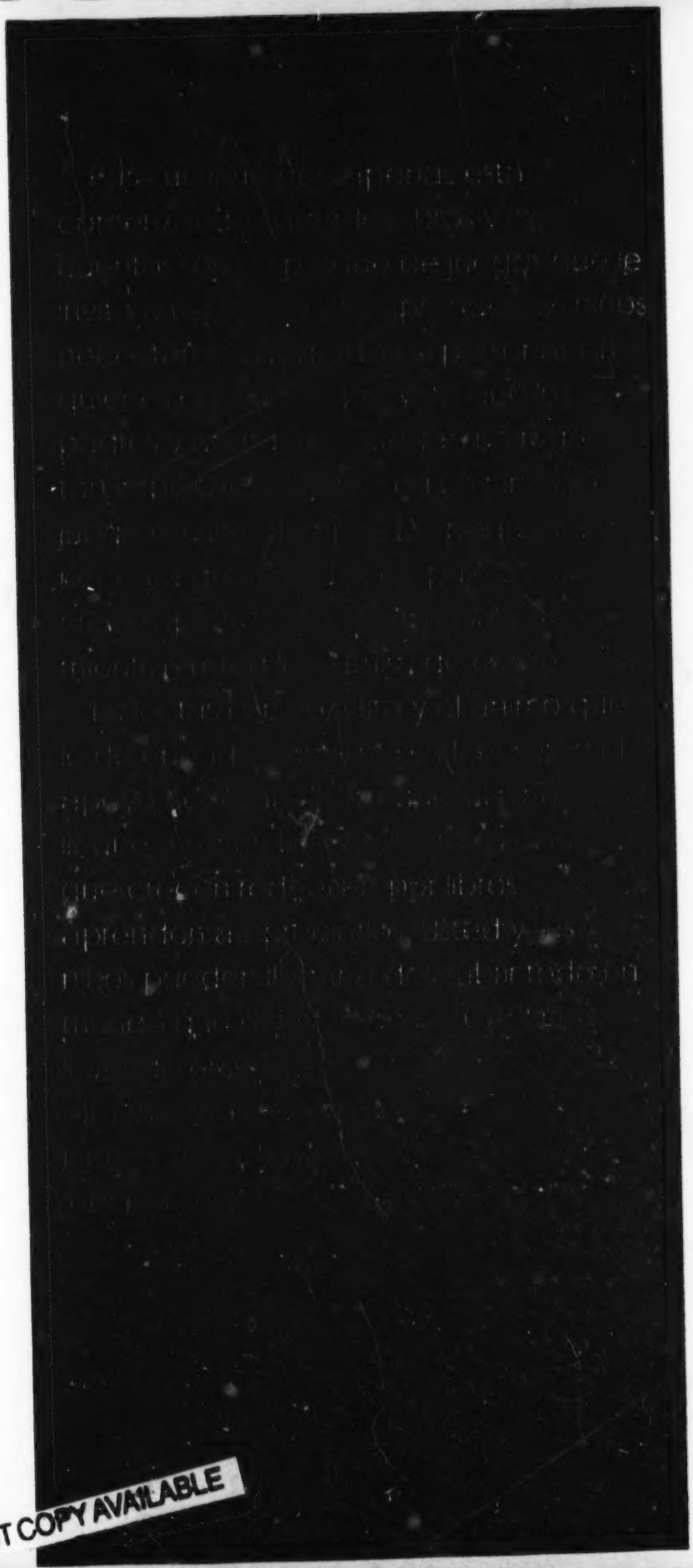

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Comenzando a leer

Los niños entre las edades de cuatro y seis años comienzan a reconocer palabras en una página. Su niño ha pasado de reconocer el logo de su cereal favorito a agarrar un libro y reconocer el misterio de la palabra escrita.

Hay muchas cosas que los padres pueden hacer para ayudar a sus hijos a leer. A este fin, cuando lean juntos:

- Señale y siga las palabras según va leyendo.
- Lea los libros que escoja el niño ¡aunque los haya leido mil veces!
- Señale palabras importantes y defina aquellas que el niño no sabe.
- Haga preguntas como: ¿Qué está pasando ahora? ¿Qué crees que va a pasar? ¿A dónde fué? o ¿Qué está haciendo el/ella?
- Conteste sus preguntas aún si se interrumpe el cuento.
- Estimule al niño/niña a que busque pistas sobre el cuento en las ilustraciones.
- Si el niño/niña no parece estar interesado en un libro, tome otro.
- Hable sobre el libro cuando haya terminado. Invítelo a leer pedacitos del cuento de nuevo.

Repita, Practique, Repita

La mayoría de los niños tienen uno o dos cuentos favoritos que desean escuchar una y otra vez. Los escuchan tantas veces que se los aprenden de memoria y hasta quieren "leérselo" a usted. Este es un paso importante. Para fomentar el aprendizaje, usted debe tener paciencia, felicitarlo por sus esfuerzos, y animarlo a leer otros libros. Otras sugerencias para alentar al niño cuando está comenzando a leer son:

- Leer es difícil. Aliéntelo a intentarlo aún si no lo hace bien cada vez.
- Practique distintos sonidos. Practique escribir y reconocer letras y palabras.
- Cuando encuentre una palabra que el

niño/niña no reconoce, trate de buscar pistas en las ilustraciones que puedan ayudarle a encontrar la respuesta.

• Si encuentra una palabra difícil, sáltela y al terminar la oración busque palabras que pudiesen ir en ese lugar.

• Felicítelo por su esfuerzo. No haga hincapié en los errores y aliéntelo a continuar. Toda palabra que aprende lo encamina y merece toda su atención y elogios.

Estimule la imaginación

Los niños aprenden sobre el mundo que les rodea a través de los libros. Usted puede escoger libros buenos que también sean divertidos. A los niños les encantan toda clase de libros. Les gusta un libro sobre sus actividades diarias pero también los libros sobre cosas y lugares desconocidos.

Para aquellos que apenas comienzan a leer, usted puede escoger libros sencillos para que lea por si solo y libros más difíciles para leer juntos. Debe considerar lo siguiente cuando escoja libros para niños pequeños:

• Hable con amistades, vecinos o familiares para que compartan los títulos de sus libros favoritos.

• Busque una lista de libros que han recibido premios o se recomiendan para niños.

• Lea la sección de crítica de libros en su diario y revistas.

• Escoja libros sobre temas que usted sabe son de interés para el niño.

• Escoja libros que tienen una buena historia pero con un final el niño pueda predecir fácilmente.

• Lea libros de todas clases y ofrezca variedad pero mantenga sus libros favoritos disponibles también.

El mejor parque de juegos

¿Dónde pueden encontrarse libros para niños de todas las edades, absolutamente

gratis? En la biblioteca pública. Las bibliotecas son lugares que padres y niños pueden explorar juntos. Las bibliotecas por lo general, tienen muchos libros, recursos y actividades para niños.

Los padres y guardianes ven todos esos libros y no saben por dónde comenzar. La biblioteca puede ayudarle a escoger buenos libros para su niño/niña así que no tema preguntar. Es fácil hacer de la biblioteca un lugar favorito donde se puede explorar.

- Visite la biblioteca con regularidad para que el niño/niña desee ir.
- Saque una tarjeta de identificación de la biblioteca para usted y su niño (aún de tres o cuatro años). A los niños les encanta tener su propia tarjeta.
- Asista a las horas de lectura de cuentos de la biblioteca (hay en horas de la tarde para aquellos padres que trabajan).
- Ayude a su niño a escoger libros pero recuerde que el/ella también pueden escoger libros.
- Use el catálogo o la computadora de la biblioteca para buscar títulos, autores y temas favoritos.
- De un buen ejemplo cuidando los libros y devolviéndolos a tiempo.

Una biblioteca propia

Aún en el mundo moderno de juegos de video, televisión y computadoras, los libros tienen un lugar muy especial en la vida de un niño. Usted puede crear una biblioteca para el disfrute de toda la familia. A todos los niños les gusta tener sus propios libros.

Las visitas a la librería (ya sea de libros de segunda mano, venta de garage) pueden reforzar el deseo de leer. Estas visitas le dan la oportunidad a los niños de escoger libros para añadir a su colección. Otra manera de demostrar cuanto quiere a los niños y cuida de sus intereses y su futuro es regalándole libros en su cumpleaños, como recompensa o por otra ocasión especial.

Lea, escriba y explore

El mundo de los libros espera por usted y sus niños. Con su ayuda, el niño/niña puede dar los primeros pasos hacia el leer solo. Usted puede darle la confianza que necesita leyendole en voz alta y ayudándole cuando comience a leer y a escribir. Asi que lea, escriba y explore el mundo de los libros—¡lo mejor está por venir!

Otro folletos en éste serie incluyé:

* *Prepárese a leer*
  Ideas para los padres de niños que apenas comienzan a leer

*Disponible en Inglés y Español

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